

BY WIRE (BACK CHANNEL VIA GAS)

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DOS, ARMY reviews  
completed.

November 14, 1969

TO: Ambassador Bunker

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

The President has requested your and General Abrams' combined views on the timing and magnitude of the next U.S. troop withdrawal announcement. He desires, however, that the matter be held strictly between the two of you and under no circumstances be discussed outside of that forum.

Two alternatives are under consideration:

a. Alternative A provides for an announcement in mid-December of the withdrawal of 60,000 U.S. troops to be completed by mid-April 1970.

b. Alternative B provides for an announcement in mid-December of the withdrawal of 100,000 troops to be completed by the end of June 1970.

Alternative A would have the advantage of not committing the U.S. to the larger figure and might therefore be more palatable in Saigon.

Alternative B would permit a greater measure of flexibility in executing actual withdrawals, as there would be a longer period to work with.

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These are, of course, only some of the considerations involved.  
The President would appreciate your full and frank opinions on this  
matter as soon as possible and hopefully by Saturday a.m., our time.

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